

# **Relevant markets in the energy sector (in decision-making practice of the Office for the Protection of Competition)**

## **Abstract**

The purpose of my thesis is to analyze the issue of relevant markets delineation in energy sector. More precisely, to determine which relevant markets have been identified in this sector by the Czech Office for the Protection of Competition, eventually by the European Commission. The reason for my research derives from absence of any comprehensive study dealing with the subject matter, despite its essential importance both for competitors and competition itself. To identify relevant markets is a prerequisite for ruling competition cases by antimonopoly authorities (while assessing concentration of undertakings, abuse of a dominant position or anticompetitive agreements).

The thesis is composed of three parts, each of them dealing with different aspects of relevant markets delineation. Part One is introductory and defines scope and basic terminology used in the thesis: competition, competitors and energy.

Part Two examines more closely methodology of identifying relevant markets. This part consists of five chapters. Chapter One focuses on relevant market definition and its importance. Chapters Two to Four deal with different perspectives of its delineation, i.e. product, geographic and time dimension. Chapter five looks at Czech antimonopoly authority approach to the topic.

Part Three is based on decision practice of the Czech Office for the Protection of Competition regarding the subject matter. This part is composed of several chapters providing complex summary of relevant markets sorted by separate energy sector areas, as well as other closely related markets (electricity sector, gas sector, heating sector, coal, secondary energy products and EU emission allowances). Chapters are subdivided into several sections in order to investigate the issue more closely, i.e. to compare and evaluate findings of Czech Office for the Protection of Competition and European Commission, to assess them and to anticipate prospecting conception within upcoming decisions in competition cases.